has powers, under Para 7(2) of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979 to recover the excess amount into the Drugs Prices Equalisation Account.

(c) A number of drug companies have secured stay orders from various Courts against Government demand. It has been decided to move an application before the Supreme Court for transferring such DPEA cases pending before the different High Courts for disposal on merits by a single order of the Supreme Court.

Impact of dismantling of APM in energy sector on fertilizer industry

1799. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has called upon the fertilizers industry to gear up to meet the challenges posed by dismantling of the administered pricing mechanism in the energy marketing sector;

(b) if so, whether Government have been examining the need the decontrol urea marketing;

(c) whether fertilizer industry has been urged to work out its strategy in a manner that it gets feedstock at import-parity prices; and

(d) if so, to what extent the industry has geared up to meet the challenges posed by dismantling of the adminstered pricing mechanism in the energy marketing sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) After dismantling of the Aministered Price Mechanism (APM) w.e.f. 1.4.2002 for petroleum products viz. naphtha, fuel oil and low sulphur heavy stock (LSHS), the fertilizer companies are now required to deal directly with oil companies and negotiate the prices of the feedstock with them. The Department of Fertilizers has advised the Fertilizer Association of India (FAI) and urea companies to work out a strategy for obtaining the best possible price of the feedstock and fuel for urea companies from the oil companies. Such a strategy would include the possibility of collecting buying, direct import of naphtha, FO and LSHS for keeping the pressure on domestic oil companies. The Department of Fertilizers will continue to assist the fertilizer

companies in the pursuit of procuring of their feed stock at the best possible price.

FAI and urea companies have held a series of discussion regarding the infrastructure facilities at ports, mode of inland transportation, quality of naphtha and modalities of issuing tenders etc.

The issue pertaining to decontrol of urea marketing is being examined as part of the proposed new pricing policy, which is under the consideration of the Government.

Testing of Pro-biotic fertilizer

1800. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council for Agricultural Research has completed the testing of organic fertilizer know as "Pro-biotic" fertilizer;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) if not by when the test would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The testing of Pro-biotic fertilizer developed by Institute of Studies and Transformation, Ahmedabad could be accomplished as soon as the agency completed the requisite formalities for testing with Indian Institute of Soil Science (IISS) Bhopal.

Closure of Sindri unit of FCI

1801. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sindri unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India has been shut down since 16th March, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the plant has been restarted;